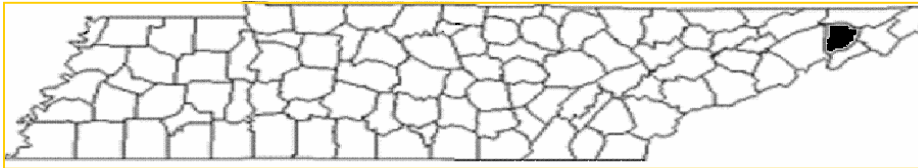


# The Status of Women in Washington County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

### INSIDE

Overview	1
County Summary	2
Overall County Rankings	3
About the Council and this Report	4

INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	47.80	46
Women's Annual Earnings	\$21,485	33
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	69.6%	69
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	45.9%	13
Female Unemployment Rate	6.1%	46
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	23.8%	78
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	33.13	14
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	22.9%	43
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	13.3%	21
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	76.5%	15
Female High School Dropout Rate	6.1%	38
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	90.6%	62
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	14.4%	31
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	9.1%	41
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	26.9	14

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Washington County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

## The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

### WASHINGTON

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

#### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Washington County women have median earnings of about \$10,000 less per year than their male counterparts. Women have median earnings of \$21,485.
- ◇ Though women make up almost 53 percent of the working-age population, they represent 46.4% of Washington County's workforce. The female labor force participation rate is only 45.9%.
- ◇ The female unemployment rate is 6.1% while the overall county unemployment rate is 5.4%.
- ◇ Of working women in Washington County, 23.8% have jobs in managerial or professional occupations while % of all employed persons work in such occupations in the county.

#### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ More than 10,000 women 18 years of age and over do not have a high school diploma in the county, and the female high school dropout rate is 6.1%. Slightly higher percentages of men than women have a high school degree; 77.2% of all county residents and 76.5% of women have a high school diploma.
- ◇ Almost 23 percent of Washington County residents have a four-year college degree, but just 13.3% of women in the county have attained that level of education.
- ◇ Over 4,000 women in Washington County have no form of health insurance coverage, and 14.4% of women earn income below the poverty level.
- ◇ Though 10.2% of families are in poverty in the county, 28.6% of families with a female householder and no husband present live in poverty.
- ◇ The percent of businesses that are women-owned in Washington County is slightly below the statewide percentage of female-owned firms. 22.9% of private firms are women-owned, yet just 5.8% of income and receipts from the county's private firms comes from those women-owned businesses.
- ◇ About 20% of elected Washington County government positions are held by women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## WASHINGTON

		Washington County	Rank of Wash- ington County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	<b>Median Annual Earnings for FT Females</b>	\$21,485	33	Williamson: \$32,243
	<b>Wage Gap</b>	69.6%	69	Davidson: 82.1%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>Female Labor Force Partici- pation Rate</b>	45.9%	13	Rutherford: 50.9%
	<b>Female Unemployment Rate</b>	6.1%	46	Pickett: 1.5%
	<b>Percent of Employed Fe- males in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations</b>	23.8%	78	Anderson: 44.6%
	<b>Women Owned Business % of Total</b>	22.9%	43	Moore: 63.3%
<b>Education</b>	<b>% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better</b>	13.3%	21	Williamson: 39.5%
	<b>% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)</b>	76.5%	15	Williamson: 90.6%
	<b>Female Dropout Rate</b>	6.1%	38	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
<b>Lifestyles</b>	<b>% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Cover- age</b>	90.6%	62	Williamson: 100%
	<b>% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes</b>	14.4%	31	Williamson: 5.4%
	<b>% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty</b>	9.1%	41	Williamson: 2.5%
	<b>Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000</b>	26.9	14	Williamson: 1.2

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Washington County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Co-Authors: Jennifer Rawls, Executive Director, Julia Reynolds, Research Analyst, and Lee Eubanks, Intern

Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties